



NEWS RELEASE

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Suspected Pill Mill Doctor Arrested

A Rancho Palos Verdes physician was arrested today on a warrant charging him with illegally prescribing drugs, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Dr. Richard Seongjun Kim (dob 8/1/72) is scheduled to be arraigned on Thursday in Department 30 at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center in case BA437315. He is being held on \$100,000 bail.

The case is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorneys John Niedermann and Emily Street of the Major Narcotics Division.

Prosecutors said Kim is charged with 21 counts of illegally prescribing narcotics without a legitimate medical need to undercover operatives working with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Over the course of three months in 2014, the general practitioner allegedly wrote prescriptions for Norco, Xanax, Soma and Adderall without ever conducting a physical exam, taking any vital signs or completing any medical charts at his clinic on Western Avenue in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Prosecutors said Kim would ask the operatives to bring in prior medical charts and X-rays to justify the prescribing. On one occasion, an operative brought in a chest X-ray of a dog that was used to justify his prescriptions, prosecutors said.

If convicted on all counts, Kim faces up to 16 years, four months in local custody.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.